

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 22, as follows:

If for example, five specimen conveyance holders 1 are carried into the holder holding mechanism 20, the moving mechanism 30 operates again in response to a control signal from the controller 40. Thus, the lifting mechanism 33 is lifted up first. The holder holding mechanism 20 is lifted up to the upper limit while holding the five specimen conveyance holders 1 by the guide rail pieces 21 and 22. Then, the moving body 32 moves horizontally. The holder holding mechanism 20 moves above the belt conveyor 10F as the moving body 32 moves. The lifting mechanism 33 lowers. Thus, the holder holding mechanism 20 is set in the holder moving area Ef. At this time, the shutter 50 of the belt conveyor 10F is open. Therefore, the five specimen conveyance holders 1 held in the holder holding mechanism 20 are conveyed in a ~~give~~ direction in accordance with the movement of the endless belt 16.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 12, as follows:

As described above, when the five specimen conveyance holders 1 are carried out of the holder holding mechanism 20, the moving mechanism 30 starts to be reset in response to a control signal from the controller 40. Consequently, the holder holding mechanism 20 performs a process opposite to the above movement and is set again in the holder moving area Ea of the belt conveyor 10A. Then, the mechanism 20 stands by for the next moving operation. Upon completing all the moving operations, the holder holding mechanism 20 ~~return~~returns to the initial state.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 24, as follows:

In the specimen conveyance holder moving system described above, when it is necessary to change the destination of specimen containers T or make a detour thereof, a plurality of

specimen container holders 1 containing and holding the specimen containers T can be moved one by one from one belt conveyor to another. The specimen containers T can thus be moved with ~~very~~ efficiency. Since, moreover, any operation for preparing empty specimen container holders need not be performed at all, the moving operation is very simple to perform.